

THE WASTEBASKET



ITEM: Public-Private Competition Provides the Best Value for Taxpayers

SITUATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) decided that the traditional practice of using the Government Printing Office (GPO) as a mandatory source for printing the President's Budget was neither fair nor economical and as advised by the Department of Justice, unconstitutional.

ACTION: For the first time, OMB requested private sector bids and received several, which would have not happened prior to this new policy.

RESULTS: With the printing of the 2004 budget, OMB set an example about the promise of competition. On a comparable basis, the GPO cost estimate for printing the budget was 23% less than the previous year and the lowest cost in at least 20 years.

LESSONS LEARNED: Competition saves the taxpayer money and along the way produces better business processes.

FACT: Opening federal printing to competition could save \$50 million to \$70 million annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/pubpress/2002-26.pdf>